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SUBJECT: CYPRUS: PREPARING TO SIGN THE U.S.-EU AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT

REFS: (A) STATE 43305, (B) 06 NICOSIA 2002

(U) This cable is sensitive but unclassified. Please treat accordingly.

1. (SBU) Post delivered on April 4 reftel demarche on the U.S.-EU air transport agreement to Iacovos Demetriou, Air Transport Chief, Civil Aviation Department. Demetriou noted that the GOC was fully supportive of the EU transport ministers' political decision to approve the first stage of the U.S.-EU air transport agreement. For the GOC there was no issue of expediting its internal approval mechanism for this agreement, since it already considered the agreement a done deal. He noted that the GOC did not anticipate any domestic obstacles to approval. Demetriou also confirmed that authority to sign the agreement in COREPER would rest with Ambassador Nicos Emiliou, Permanent Representation of the Republic of Cyprus to the EU, or his designated representative.

2. (SBU) On April 12, we followed up our meeting with Demetriou with a call to Makis Constantinides, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Communications and Works. Constantinides also reported he expected no obstacles to Cypriot approval of the agreement prior to the April 30 U.S.-EU summit. He noted that the GoC had yet to receive any request for guidance from its Mission in Brussels on any planned signing of the agreement within COREPER. Nevertheless, Constantinides promised to be in contact with the Cypriot Mission in Brussels to help ensure that Ambassador Emiliou received the approval necessary to sign the agreement.

SCHLICHER